

Notice of Exchange Proposal

Proposed Exchange of Lands in Mesa County, Colorado

COC-64320

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, Bureau of Land Management, Grand Junction Field Office, 2815 H Road, Grand Junction, CO 81506.

Notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Land Management, Grand Junction Field Office is considering a proposal to exchange land pursuant to Section 206 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1716), as amended. The Federal and Nonfederal parcels of land involved are located within or near the boundaries of the Bangs Canyon Special Recreation Management Area south of Grand Junction, Colorado. The exchange has been proposed by the Mesa Mood Ranch.

The following described federal land is being considered for disposal by the United States:

T. 13 S., R. 101 W., Sixth Principal Meridian

Sec. 13: SE3SE3;

Sec. 15: SW3SE3.

T. 14 S., R. 101 W., Sixth Principal Meridian

Sec. 12: Lots 4 and 5, S2;

Sec. 13: Lots 1-7.

Total Federal Acres- 772.71

In exchange the United States would acquire the following described nonfederal land from the Mesa Mood Ranch:

T. 12 S., R. 99 W., Sixth Principal Meridian

Sec. 19: Lots 4 and 7.

T. 12 S., R. 100 W., Sixth Principal Meridian

Sec. 11: Lot 10;

Sec. 14: Lots 1 and 2.

T. 12 S., R. 101 W., Sixth Principal Meridian

Sec. 25: Tract 75.

T. 13 S., R. 100 W., Sixth Principal Meridian

Sec. 8: E2SE3;

Sec. 9: SW3SW3;

Sec. 16: NW3NW3.

Total Non-Federal Acres- 331.40

The public benefits of completing this land exchange include the acquisition by BLM of four parcels of land in the Bangs Canyon area which would consolidate public ownership, enhance management opportunities to protect riparian, wildlife, visual, recreational, and open space values, and protect the property from future development. Two of the proposed acquisition parcels, totaling approximately 130 acres, are adjacent to the south bank of the Gunnison River and contain approximately one mile of river frontage. The two remaining parcels are uplands, one of which is a 160-acre inholding crossed by the Tabeguache Mountain Bike Trail, and the other is a 40-acre inholding located within the Rough Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern. Public ownership of this property would greatly enhance the BLM's ability to provide and manage the recreational trail system in the Bangs Canyon area and minimize conflicts between federal uses and private property.

This exchange will be completed on an equal fair market value basis.

Subject to valid existing rights, the federal land identified above has been segregated from appropriation under the public land laws and mineral laws for a period of five years beginning May 1, 2001.

More detailed information concerning the proposed exchange may be obtained from Robin Lacy, Realty Specialist, Grand Junction Field Office, 2815 H Road, Grand Junction, CO 81506, (970) 244-3028.

Interested parties may submit comments concerning the proposed exchange to the Field Manager, Grand Junction Field Office, at the above address. In order to be considered in the environmental analysis of the proposed exchange, comments must be in writing to the Field Manager and be postmarked or delivered by November 20, 2003.

Dated: September 30, 2003

Catherine Robertson
Grand Junction Field Manager